

Women in the Economy Commission Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday, August 1, 2017

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

House Room 25

Commission: Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Rep. Becky Edwards, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Melissa Freigang, Karen Leonardi, Judy Barnett, Anne Marie Wallace, Anne Burkholder, and Jennifer Robinson

Excused: Sen. Deidre Henderson, and Kathy Bounous

Staff Support: Shelle Allinson

Attendees: Gina Cornia and Tracy Gruber

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome	Welcome (Rep. Chavez-Houck)	
Poverty at a Glance	Gina Cornia from Utahns Against Hunger presented on poverty and the gender gap in Utah. Utah has the highest wage gap in the country. 7% of households in Utah receive SNAP. The biggest challenge they face is that the most vulnerable and needy are prevented from accessing it. Federal budget cuts are a big concern for many of the programs.	Sen. Escamilla is concerned about the misinformation on fraud. Would like the commission to look at what role we could play in writing op-eds in opposition to budget cuts, attend lobbying meetings and board meetings and ask constituents to write to their members of congress. Would like to see us connect with women who are impacted by these programs and get them to share their stories. Rep. Chavez-Houck would like exact numbers on the effects of raising minimum wage so she can help be the voice piece at the next legislative meeting in October.
	Minutes from the last meeting were approved.	Motion to approve minutes from the last meeting.
Intergenerational Poverty	Tracy Gruber from The Department of Workforce Services presented on IGP. They have a new website with updated county information. Discussed the 13 rural counties	Rep. Chavez-Houck would like to see legislators focus on the pockets of data now out in order to make policy changes. Melissa

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Sub-committee Updates	that received grants and they are looking at using a mentoring program which has not yet been decided on. Having the five and ten year plan out has helped legislators with recommendations on what needs to be improved upon.	Freigang would like information on how to support data sharing so we can provide the services where needed.
Communications	Ann Marie Wallace is back from maternity leave and thanked everyone for their baby gift. The website is now live.	Judy Barnett would like to serve on this committee and help with the website.
Research	Anne Burkholder said efforts are underway to study the focus groups that were underway from last year but we are still looking for funding. Wal-Mart may be open to another application for funding.	Rep. Chavez-Houck will connect with Wal-Mart again and see if she can reinvigorate the application for funding.
Policy	Poverty at a Glance and the IGP update were part of this. We need to focus on the data gathering stage.	Rep. Chavez-Houck will attend the meeting on child care to obtain more data on policy in other states.
SB221	Sen. Escamilla is lining up support for this bill. There is no fiscal note. Next meeting will be October 5 th .	Sen. Escamilla would like the commission to support the bill. Spread word to our colleagues to come present any other bills they would like the commission to support. Anne Burkholder would like Rep. Ward to come talk about his bill on contraception and family planning at our next meeting. Shelle will set that up.
	Motion to adjourn meeting.	Meeting adjourned.